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**Subject:** Flint Readout 03/24/16

Flint Task Force Concludes That Emergency Managers ‘Contributed to the Crisis’

By Taylor Lewis, Essence 03/24/16 5:39 PM

As Flint residents continue to battle the city’s lead-poisoned water, the Flint Water Advisory Task Force has issued a report finding that city leaders and politicians grossly mishandled the situation. According to The Grio, the report finds that the city’s emergency managers, who were appointed by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, exhibited “unpreparedness, delay, inaction and environmental injustice.” The water crisis, which has exposed upwards of 8,000 children to lead poisoning, has been ongoing for two years, when the city switched its water source from Lake Huron to the Flint River.

Task force report fixes blame on Gov. Snyder and his administration

By Jack Lessenberry, Michigan Radio 03/24/16 12:00 PM [radio clip]

The mantra they’ve been chanting is “mistakes were made at all levels of government.” But they’ve wanted to create the impression that the EPA was mostly to blame. Republicans especially love this explanation since, while they control all levels of state government, the President is a Democrat and technically responsible for all his appointees.

Flint task force issues scathing report, calls state leaders incompetent, ignorant and arrogant

By The Grio 03/24/16 11:53 AM

On Wednesday, the Flint Water Advisory Task Force appointed by Michigan Governor Rick Snyder issued a critique of the state government at multiple levels, calling out the “failure, intransigence, unpreparedness, delay, inaction and environmental injustice” that led to the water crisis in Flint, Michigan.

#### Panel pins blame for Flint crisis on Gov. Snyder’s administration

By Steve Benen, MSNBC 03/24/16 10:59 AM

Last fall, when Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder (R) started to recognize the severity of the catastrophe in Flint, he appointed members to a task force to determine what went wrong. There were concerns that the panel might hesitate before pointing the finger at the same governor who tasked them with uncovering the truth. It was all the more striking, then, when the panel issued a report yesterday that said it’s the Snyder administration that’s “fundamentally accountable” for the Flint crisis, because it was the governor’s environmental regulators and state-appointed emergency managers who created the mess.

#### Flint report offers damning verdict on state emergency manager law

By Mike Wilkinson, MLIVE 03/24/16 10:30 AM

State government is foremost to blame for failing to keep lead from poisoning Flint’s water supply. And key decisions to switch the city’s water supply to the Flint River, and stay there — despite mounting public complaints about the taste, odor, color and health effects of the city’s tap water — were made by a succession of state-appointed emergency managers.

#### Who Is to Blame for Flint’s Lead Crisis?

David A. Graham, The Atlantic 03/24/16 7:52 AM

Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, under fire for his handling of the lead-poisoning crisis in Flint, has offered two main defenses: First, he acted as soon as he became aware of the problem. And second, much of the blame for the crisis rests not with him and the state government, but with either local authorities or the U.S. EPA, which he says failed to catch the contamination. Now both of Snyder’s defenses have taken a hard blow from the panel he himself appointed to investigate the crisis.

#### Howes: Flint task force slams EM law, asks new question

By Daniel Howes, Detroit News 03/24/16 8:57 AM

The hammering of Gov. Rick Snyder continues in the Flint water crisis, this time at the hands of a task force appointed by him but determined to demonstrate its independence. It shows. The five-person panel says the state's controversial Emergency Manager Law, an iteration refined twice by Snyder and fellow Republicans to address "severe financial distress" in places like Flint, should be reviewed. The law removes checks and balances that could have scrutinized or stopped bad decisions made by four separate EMs in Flint.

Flint water task force report shows lack of communication from state, mayor says

By Amanda Emery, MLIVE 03/23/16 11:27 PM

Flint Mayor Karen Weaver says a water task force report shows lack of communication between the city and state officials continues in water crisis. Weaver said the report released Wednesday, March 23 showed what happened when state officials made unilateral decisions on behalf of the city without consulting local officials.

Scathing independent report blames state officials for Flint water crisis

Brady Dennis, Washington Post 03/23/16 6:07 PM

A task force appointed by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder to investigate the water-contamination crisis in Flint issued a blistering report Wednesday, laying blame squarely on state officials in what it called "a story of government failure, intransigence, unpreparedness, delay, inaction and environmental injustice."

## **Other News**

Flint doctor among nominees for Time Magazine's 100 most influential people

By Roberto Acosta, MLIVE 03/24/16 5:46 PM

The whistleblowing doctor that informed the world of elevated lead levels in children's blood in Flint amid the water crisis has been nominated for a prestigious recognition. Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, director of the Pediatric Residency Program at Hurley Medical Center and assistant professor of Pediatrics and Human Development at Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine, has been nominated for Time Magazine's 100 most influential people list.

### Flint's switch to river water left residents holding the tab

By Mike Wilkinson, MLIVE 03/24/16 11:05 AM

Long before Flint's lead-tainted water brought national attention to the city, everyone in town knew the cost of its water was sky high. Huge price increases had created the highest rates in the nation. When service and usage fees were added up, Flint's beleaguered residents paid an average annual bill of \$864 last year. By contrast, the next highest average in Michigan was \$300 lower.

### Flint's property values amid crisis draw concerns

By Jacob Carah, Detroit News 03/23/16 6:34 PM

Genesee County's clerk is worried about the future of property values in the county and the city. John Gleason's concern is that once the "excitement" over Flint's water crisis has subsided, "people are going to wonder what kind of infrastructure do I have in and going into my home." "There is a great deal of questions about the water situation in Flint," Gleason said. "As a representative of people in our county, I should do everything I can to stabilize and firm up property values in our county."

### Snyder's approval ratings continue to slide over Flint

By Paul Egan, Detroit Free Press 03/24/16 4:53 PM

Gov. Rick Snyder's popularity continues to slide, along with voters' assessments of how he has handled the Flint drinking water crisis, according to a new poll. And voters' sour view of the governor may also be influencing their outlook on the performance of the state generally, including its economy.

### Flint water crisis fund names grant-making advisory committee members

By Roberto Acosta, MLIVE 03/24/16 3:53 PM

The Community Foundation of Greater Flint has announced the eight-member advisory committee that will handle grants for money donated to the Flint Child Health & Development

Fund. The fund established at the foundation that has raised \$6 million from 12,000 donors will service the long-term health care and development needs of Flint children that have been exposed to lead during the water crisis

#### Darnell Earley testifying at Flint congressional hearing

By Brett Reyes, Examiner Gazette 03/24/16 3:53 PM

In July 2015, EPA official Jennifer Crooks said in a summary of an agency meeting on Flint that "it doesn't make sense to discuss with the state what happened in the past...as the state sees the lead levels climbing, I don't see the benefit in rubbing their nose in the fact that we're right and they're wrong". "The EPA had everything to do with Flint". The governor pointed to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the federal lead and copper rule, which requires monitoring of drinking water.

#### Gosar calls for McCarthy to be impeached over Flint water crisis

Press release on EP Newswire 03/24/16 1:56 PM

U.S. Rep. Paul A. Gosar (R-AZ) recently called for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy to be impeached following her testimony at an Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing on the drinking water crisis in Flint, Michigan. "Not a single one of the actions taken by EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy in the wake of the Flint water crisis proves she understands the seriousness of this catastrophe," Gosar said. "We now know that EPA officials admitted in June of 2015 that Flint water had high levels of lead. Shamefully, the EPA failed to warn residents of this imminent danger."

#### America's water crisis goes beyond Flint, Michigan

By Dina Gusovsky, CNBC 03/24/16 11:00 AM

The water contamination crisis in Flint, Michigan, continues to make headlines. Yet America's water issues extend far beyond this city — and it's going to take a massive infrastructure investment to protect citizens from serious public health dangers, say experts.

#### The KWA pipeline might be the next target of an investigation

By Steve Carmody, Michigan Radio 03/24/16 6:16 AM

The Governor's Flint water crisis task force is recommending a new investigation into the KWA pipeline project. Flint's emergency manager agreed to the switch in 2013 to save money.

## **Donations and Aid**

Groups seek home-delivered water to all Flint homes amid lead crisis

By Matt Helms, Detroit Free Press 03/24/16 5:11 PM

Flint residents and activists are seeking a federal court order to force bottled-water delivery to every household in the city. Flint's Concerned Pastors for Social Action, resident Melissa Mays, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the ACLU of Michigan said today that the groups filed a motion for preliminary injunction in the Eastern District of Michigan. The motion is part of a Jan. 27 lawsuit alleging violations of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and asking the federal court to intervene and secure safe drinking water.

Flint water crisis spurs 125,000 pound food donation by Hormel, ConAgra

By Roberto Acosta, MLIVE 03/24/16 4:00 PM

A group of companies joined the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union to provide thousands of pounds of food to families dealing with the Flint water crisis. The UFCW worked in partnership with Cargill, ConAgra Foods, Hormel Foods, JBS USA, Pinnacle Foods, Downs Food Group and Ryder Logistics to gather more than 60 tons of items for donation to the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan.

Dow Chemical helping with Flint water relief effort

By Heather Jordan, MLIVE 03/24/16 3:04 PM

The Dow Chemical Co. is teaming up with Genesee County Habitat for Humanity and the United Way of Genesee County to support ongoing water relief efforts in Flint. In partnership with the Genesee County Habitat for Humanity, Dow will offer and install free water filtration systems to all Habitat for Humanity homes in Flint, according to a Dow news release.

## Opinions

### Sparking democratic control of water in Flint and beyond

By Kelle Louaillier, The Hill 03/24/16 5:00 PM

The vultures are circling. As people in Flint, Michigan organize to demand justice from a system that failed them horrifically, the private water industry is jockeying to position itself as the solution—not just in Flint, but nationwide. But if we are to learn anything from the enormous human tragedy in Flint, it's that we need more democracy, not less, when it comes making sure people have clean, safe water. To bring justice to the people of Flint and avoid similar tragedies, we as a nation must treat water access as the human right it is and prioritize the democratic control of water over private profit and financial gain.

### 'It's affected everybody': Flint children on the frontline of the water crisis

By Ryan Felton, The Guardian, 03/24/16 3:01 PM

When Nakiya Wakes moved to Flint in mid-2014, school wasn't an issue for her seven-year-old son, Jaylon Tyson. During the intervening school year, Tyson was suspended once. This year, the number of suspensions ballooned to 56.

### Flint Water Crisis: Failure of an MBA

By Terrance Rogers, Huffington Post 03/24/16 1:14 PM

As an MBA, Governor Snyder should be held to a higher standard of ethics, similar to those he was held to as CEO of computer hardware giant, Gateway, Inc. He should know better. First year students at Harvard Business School are required to take “Leadership and Corporate Accountability”, which examines corporate decisions through a legal, economic, and ethical lens. Let's look at where the Governor and his team went wrong.

### Time to govern, move forward to fix Flint

By Detroit Free Press 03/24/16 11:39 AM

The abundant deficiencies of Gov. Rick Snyder's administration are laid bare in a scathing report issued Wednesday by the task force the governor himself appointed to postmortem the Flint water crisis. The appointment of this task force was the governor's response, in the days after he finally acknowledged that the water in Flint was not safe to drink, to critics demanding

accountability from an administration that for too long seemed unmoved by the events unfolding in Flint.

#### Governor Snyder: Don't Resign, Move to Flint

By Ken Wilson, Huffington Post 03/24/16 10:45 AM

Calls for the Governor to resign over the Flint water crisis abound. But that's old-fashioned punitive justice. It gives victims little voice and less satisfaction than restorative justice. Under the leadership of Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela, South Africa opted for restorative over punitive justice. They set up a "Truth and Reconciliation Commission." The victims of apartheid gave statements at public hearings. Perpetrators gave testimony as well and could request amnesty from prosecution.

#### Flint film stresses emergency manager's role in crisis

By Karen Bouffard, Detroit News 03/24/16 12:07 AM

Produced by the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan and journalist Curt Guyette, the film has become a talking point in the discussion on the state of journalism today and another on how the need for high-quality investigative journalism is increasingly being filled by non-news organizations. Called "Here's to Flint!" — and based on government officials' celebratory toast when the city switched to Flint River water in April 2014 — the film highlights how Michigan's unique emergency manager law contributed to the disaster, and the crucial role Flint residents played in bringing the situation to light.

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